

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 9, 10, 18-21 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable under over Saulpaugh in view of IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin No. NN9607229. Claims 2-8, 11-17 and 22-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Saulpaugh and IBM further in view Heiney. The claims have been amended to overcome the present rejection.

The amended claims focus on an aspect of the MPS session that differs from the socket logic disclosed by Heiney. Whereas Heiney discloses connections between a client and a target, "The MPS session allows the MPS Client to communicate with any of a number of MPS Target applications running on different processors in the same computer or in different computers." (page 6, lines 13-15). In page 17 the opening of a MPS session is described, followed by the result. "Once the MPS session is opened the MPS Client can communicate with any target application that has an opened MPS session on the same CMI conduit." As seen on page 23 of the application, the MpsOpen routine does not identify any particular destination for making a connection, rather an open session is created. The MPS client "specifies a 'call-back' routine, a conduit identifier, a domain name, a mailbox and an optional context handle." (page 23, lines 1-2) A client is basically opening a "gate" to allow sending and receiving messages to and from any target that is open on an identically named communication link (conduit).

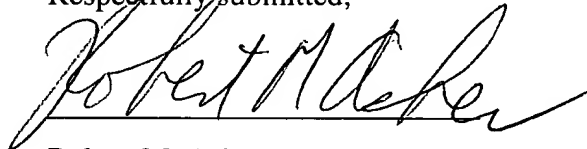
This distinguishing feature of the present invention is now contained in the amended claims. In particular, claim 1 requires “session control logic operably coupled to open a message passing session over a conduit to allow communications with any of a plurality of target applications that have an open message passing session on the conduit.” The sessions of Applicants’ invention as set forth in the amended claims is not disclosed, suggested or taught with regard to message passing services in the cited references.

In accordance with Heiney, “separate threads are set up for each client requesting the service; otherwise, multiple requesting clients would have to wait until the first client’s operation was finished.” (Column 6, Lines 13-15). Heiney goes on, “To service more than one client at a time, a separate copy of the DLL for each client must be present at the server so that a separate thread for each client request can be serviced.” (column 6, lines 7-19) In accordance with Heiney, “Multiple clients 70 and 71 are connected to the server 11 across socket 12.” (column 8, lines 5-6). It seems like each client/socket connection must be explicitly made. On the other hand, in accordance with the session logic of the present invention, a session is opened and messages can be sent to or received from any destination having an open message passing session on the conduit without having to open each connection explicitly. As such, Applicants’ invention as set forth in the current claims directed to a message passing service with session control logic to open a session over a conduit for communications with “any of a plurality of target applications” fully distinguishes Applicants’ invention over Heiney.

As the examiner concedes Saulpaugh “does not specify session control logic to open and close a message passing service session.” Neither does IBM disclose, teach or suggest the session control logic as claimed. Thus, the references as a whole fail to demonstrate obviousness of Applicants’ invention.

For the reasons stated above, Applicants’ submit that the claims currently in the application are patentable over the art of record and early notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Asher", written over a horizontal line.

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